

Members

Sen. Sue Landske, Chairperson
Sen. Brandt Hershman
Sen. Earline Rogers
Sen. Karen Tallian
Rep. Terri Austin
Rep. David Niezgodski
Rep. Ed Soliday
Rep. Don Lehe



ILLIANA EXPRESSWAY PROPOSAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

LSA Staff:

Karen Firestone, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee
Dan Paliganoff, Attorney for the Committee

Authority: IC 8-23-27 (Established by SEA 105-2007)

**Legislative Services Agency
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789
Tel: (317) 233-0696 Fax: (317) 232-2554**

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 25, 2007
Meeting Time: 10 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Sen. Sue Landske, Chairperson; Sen. Earline Rogers; Sen. Karen Tallian; Rep. Terri Austin; Rep. David Niezgodski; Rep. Ed Soliday; Rep. Don Lehe.

Members Absent: Sen. Brandt Hershman.

Call to Order

Sen. Sue Landske, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10 am and asked the Committee members and staff to introduce themselves. She indicated that Mr. Joe Gustin, Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), would provide a status report on the Illiana Expressway Study request for proposal (RFP) and on the Corridor of the Future program.

Status Reports

Mr. Gustin provided and reviewed four handouts for the Committee including, *The Indiana Expressway - Time Lines* (Exhibit A); *Evaluation of the Study Requirements for SEA 105* (Exhibit B); *"Corridors of the Future" Candidates and Selection* (Exhibit C); and *Summary of Benefits Being Designated a "Corridor of the Future"* (Exhibit D). In response to a question from Sen. Landske, Mr. Gustin indicated that the feasibility study of the Illiana Expressway was not affected by the project not being designated a Corridor of the Future, and that most of the projects competing for the federal funding were much larger projects than the proposed Illiana Expressway.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Mr. Gustin referred to Item 12 on page 3 of Exhibit B, saying that all potential funding options will be considered, not just public-private partnerships. He said that the feasibility study will review alternative corridors, the total costs and design costs, and the money needed to finance the project with cash or with tolls collected through a public toll authority or a public-private partnership. Rep. Ed Soliday asked whether bonding and other normal ways of funding roads would be considered. Mr. Gustin said that bonding would require a source of revenue to pay the debt service and in the study, a determination of how much funding may be available through motor fuel taxes or other taxes would be made. He suggested that the Indiana Finance Authority could provide opinions on bonding alternatives.

Sen. Earline Rogers asked whether there would be an opportunity for public participation in the feasibility study. She noted that the legislature would not have to approve a project unless it was a public-private partnership. Rep. Soliday said that INDOT would report to the Committee, and the Committee would be able to conduct public input sessions prior to making a recommendation to the General Assembly. Sen. Landske referred the Committee to IC 8-23-27-7, which indicates the Committee is to accept and review the study presented by INDOT, and other testimony provided by INDOT, other state or federal agencies, and the public concerning the proposed Illiana Expressway project. The Committee then is to prepare a report to submit to the Governor and to the Legislative Council regarding the Committee's determination of whether the proposed Illiana Expressway project is recommended.

Mr. Gustin referred to Exhibit A and indicated that INDOT would provide a report to the Committee by July 1, 2009. He indicated that report would provide the tools to help the Committee make its decisions. In response to a question from Sen. Landske, he discussed the three levels of studies that are conducted for a new road project. He said that the first level, to which the Illiana Expressway feasibility study belongs, includes toll sensitivity studies with a broad overview of the footprint of the road. He said that a Level 2 study is more thorough and that surveys of freight companies and automobile traffic are undertaken at this level. A Level 3 study produces investment-quality information.

In response to Rep. Don Lehe, Mr. Gustin indicated that the economic impact on communities would be a critical part of the study and the toll sensitivity survey would take into consideration traffic congestion. He pointed to Item 14 in Exhibit B, which involves providing traffic projections showing expected use and relief of traffic congestion.

Rep. Terri Austin asked about the time line for the Cambridge Systematics selection and whether both this project and URS Mass Transit study had been fast-tracked. Mr. Gustin indicated that the two-year time frame for this study meant the selection of the vendor had to move at a quick pace. He said that the URS Mass Transit study was also fast-tracked, although Rep. Austin pointed out that it had taken four months to select the vendor.

Sen. Rogers asked about the negative impact of the Illiana Expressway on the Gary/Chicago Airport and the possible development of the Peotone, Illinois, airport. Mr. Gustin indicated that the report would address economic development and rail, including light passenger rail.

Sen. Landske asked about the Illinois Department of Transportation being part of this study. Mr. Gustin indicated that in 2006 a memorandum of understanding was entered into between Illinois and Indiana to prepare a joint environmental studies. In response to Rep. Austin, Mr. Gustin said that the joint environmental studies will be jointly funded, but that this feasibility study was requested by the Indiana legislature which had set aside up to \$1 M for the study. In response to Rep. Soliday, Mr. Gustin indicated that Illinois would pay a pro rata share of the cost of the joint environmental studies. The formula for dividing costs reflects that most of the road miles will be in Illinois. He also said that there was not enough funding in this study to limit

the corridor of the Illiana Expressway route.

Sen. Karen Tallian asked if INDOT will conduct public hearings as part of the study. Mr. Gustin replied that there may be some public hearings, but they would not be extensive. Sen. Tallian responded that she thought public input is important at the feasibility study level. She said that she had a problem with a report with three lines that did not include public impact. Mr. Gustin suggested that the Committee could take public testimony and that the report would support three or four potential routes, but none would be final.

Rep. David Niezgodski asked about the source of funds for the study. Mr. Gustin indicated that he did not know the exact source for the funds, but there were several options available.

Rep. Soliday said he hoped the study would define the routes in fairly narrow lines indicating that in a previous study, the maps made it look as though schools in Porter County would be removed by the broad line of the projected routes. Mr. Gustin indicated that there would be broad lines in this study. He said that SB 105 did not require review of environmental issues but that INDOT did require discussion of the environmental impact in the RFP and the study. Rep. Austin asked if Cambridge Systematic could be asked to do public outreach. Mr. Gustin said that some money was available in the study for public outreach, but that the amount set aside for the study was needed to achieve the other goals of the study.

Sen. Rogers suggested that future Committee meetings be held in Northwest Indiana and that the Chair call the Committee meetings as various phases of the study are completed. Sen. Landske referring to Exhibit A, the study time line, suggested combining some of the report stages. Sen. Landske decided that the next Committee meeting would be in December to receive the financial information. Mr. Gustin said that he could keep the Committee apprised of the progress of the study. Sen. Landske thanked Mr. Gustin and turned to public testimony.

Mr. Gerry Scheub, Lake County Commissioner, provided handouts for the Committee (Exhibit E). He said that the Illiana Expressway will not provide jobs in for the long term and that it would make the Peotone Airport viable and take traffic from the Gary Airport. Mr. Scheub endorsed a lake shore development much like the Lake Shore Drive effort in Chicago. Mr. Scheub said that there is a petition in Lake County with 5,000 signatures opposing the Illiana Expressway. He said that incorporating a Lake Shore effort with the Marquette Plan would prepare for the loss of the mills. He recommended meetings in both the north and south parts of Lake County. Sen. Rogers recommended waiting to see what information would come from the Illiana Expressway study. Rep. Soliday explained why the Peotone Airport was not competition for the Gary Airport, including that airlines would not pay to develop a terminal and that the federal government would have to approve the new runways. Sen. Tallian suggested that the lake shore drive and the Illiana Expressway were separate issues.

Mr. Jerry Cooley, LaPorte County Council, expressed concern about extension of the Illiana Expressway in the future. Rep. Soliday said that the Illiana Expressway is being considered to relieve future congestion around Chicago, not as an access route to Chicago.

Adjournment

Sen. Landske said that she would call the next meeting in mid-December and asked that anyone with an interest in future meetings sign up with LSA staff.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.